

22nd anniversary of the taking of American hostages in Iran. Unbelievable.

While Uncle Sam continues to spoon-feed this guy Khatami, they are celebrating American tragedies. Beam me up. I say it is time to throw this Khatami guy out and recognize the democratic resistance located in Paris, France, trying to overthrow this regime and bring some democracy to Iran.

President Bush has made some great decisions. He would be wise to look at what is happening in Iran.

COMMENDING GAYLE BAINBRIDGE AS PRESIDENT-ELECT OF WOMEN'S CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to commend Gayle Bainbridge as the President-elect of the Women's Chamber of Commerce of Miami-Dade County. Gayle is a partner with USI Florida-Kolisch Insurance of Coral Gables, the fifth largest fully integrated risk and financial services provider in the world.

Due to Gayle's expertise, she serves as an expert witness and has taught insurance professionals their post-licensure courses. Her community activities include the Alumni Associations of both Southwest Miami Senior High and Florida International University; Board of Directors at the Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce; member of the Women in International Trade, the Commercial Real Estate Women Association; and the Miami Chapter President of Business Network International.

Gayle exemplifies the ideals upon which the Women's Chamber was founded, an outstanding female professional who leads by example.

Gayle Bainbridge will excel as President-elect of the Women's Chamber and will motivate young women to strive, to achieve, and to become successful in the business arena.

AIRLINE SECURITY

(Ms. SOLIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of a strong airline security bill that federalizes airline screeners. Airline security is a national issue. Eight weeks have passed since the attacks on the World Trade Center, and we still do not have a sound airline security bill. How much longer do we have to wait?

We have heard numerous reports of passengers with knives and guns passing security checkpoints supervised by the companies that Republicans want to keep overseeing our security. These

private companies' only interest is profit, not national security. Current baggage screeners are poorly paid, lack at times proper training and suffer from high turnover rates. Federalization means less employee turnover, more experience and better wages.

Those who protect our skies should be treated with the respect that their job demands. That respect means higher wages, more training and better qualified individuals. All of these objectives can be achieved by federalization of the airline security. Federalization means universal standards.

We need a sound airport security bill that would give the government the responsibility of overseeing safety. In a recent Washington poll, 82 percent of the public support federalizing airport security.

PROTECT NATIONAL SECURITY BY ASSURING OUR ENERGY SUPPLY

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, yesterday President Bush decided to refill our national strategic petroleum reserves to full capacity. This is very critical and very important and I applaud his decision. During this time of war, the last thing that our Nation needs to worry about is its energy supply. Obviously our President has the foresight to try to prevent a domestic energy shortage as we saw last year, and so did this Chamber and this House when we passed the Energy Security Act months ago. Yet the Democratic leadership in that other body refuses to act on this critical issue.

A majority of our energy supply comes from one world region, the Middle East. According to the Energy Department, the United States increased its oil imports between 1973 and 1996 by 40 percent. During these times of war, concentrating oil imports from any one region places America's energy and economic security at great risk.

It is time to reduce our dependency on foreign oil. It is time for the Democratic leadership in the other body to act and pass the Energy Security Act so it can be signed into law.

AIRPORT SECURITY

(Mrs. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, 2 days ago New York suffered another tragedy in the skies, another day of mayhem, carnage, fire and tears. As we pray for the families of the victims, Americans are again doubting whether it is safe to fly. We need to pass a strong airport security bill quickly. We have the best military in the world, the best law enforcement agencies, the best firefighters and police officers and world-class security right here at the Capitol. All of these

people are public employees and many of them are union members.

When we get serious about protecting our people, we put government employees on the front lines. It is time to get serious about airport security. That means x-raying every single bag that goes into the belly of an airplane, and it means replacing today's flawed system with the full resources, manpower and focus of the Federal Government.

Federalize airport security.

FREEDOM

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, today in Kabul and other cities in northern Afghanistan, men are shaving off their beards. Women are going outside unescorted by male relatives, and without wearing burqas to cover themselves head to toe. Children are playing music on their tape recorders. These may seem like minor things, but they are minor things that the Afghan people have been denied for too long.

We need to remind ourselves that our freedoms are not free. They were won by patriots who sometimes gave their lives. I am talking about the freedom to worship according to your beliefs. If you do that in Afghanistan, you are put to death. I am talking about the freedom of the press. If you try to publish a newspaper in Iraq, you are thrown in jail, never to return. I am talking about the freedom of assembly. If you try to organize a political rally in North Korea, you will wake up in a concentration camp.

We are truly blessed in this country and those freedoms are worth defending. That is why we are at war, for freedom.

CONGRESS NEEDS TO PASS AIRLINE SECURITY AND AN ECONOMIC STIMULATION BILL

(Mr. HINCHEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, I am afraid that this Congress is becoming less and less relevant to the important concerns of people all across our country. Last month, a record number of Americans lost their jobs. Yet a program to stimulate the national economy is still hanging fire here while people try to profiteer by providing huge tax cuts for the wealthy while providing no help for people who are out of work.

The same thing is true with airline security. We have a bill that has been in conference now for weeks. It is more than 2 months since the disaster struck the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. Yet we have no program to provide security for the Americans who are traveling by air across our country and internationally.